

Project Title and Statement of Purpose

The Green Team Environmental Project

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe, a federally recognized tribe, is comprised of 3,029 enrolled tribal members of whom the majority live in and around Red Rock, Oklahoma 74651. The Tribal Council, which functions as a sovereign government, has and continues to recognize the importance of protecting their environment. This concern and acknowledgement is reflected by their actions. They have created a mission statement, *"to protect the environment and conserve natural resources within all Otoe-Missouria Jurisdictional Lands"*. The Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department (OMED) was established in 1997 and is currently in the sixteenth year of operation. The mission of the OMED is to protect the environment and conserve natural resources within all Otoe-Missouria jurisdictional lands for their people, future generations, and way of life. In efforts to accomplish this mission, the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Environmental Department (OMED) is committed to address the environmental and health issues in this project through education and awareness.

The Tribal Governmental and Administrative Office are located in a rural isolated area called the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Complex, 14 miles south of Ponca City, Oklahoma, 74601 and 28 miles north of Stillwater, Oklahoma 74014. A mile north of the Tribal Headquarters is the 7 Clans Casino, a mile south to the east is the 49 unit low rent Otoe-Missouria Tribal Housing Authority, adjacent is the Otoe-Missouria Water Treatment Facility and a half mile south on the west is the 7 Clans Paradise Travel Mart, all of these are located near Red Rock, OK 74651. Located north of Newkirk, Oklahoma, 74647, on the west side of State Highway 177 is the Otoe-Missouria Tribe's First Council Casino and Hotel as well as the 7 Clans Paradise Travel Plaza. This project will involve the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Community, Red Rock, OK 74651, the Red Rock Community, Red Rock, OK 74651, students of Frontier School, Red Rock, OK 74651, Otoe-Missouria Housing Authority, Red Rock, OK 74651 and 7 Clans and First Council Casino and Hotel, Red Rock, OK 74651 and Newkirk, OK 74647. The participants for this project will be part of our "Green Team". The OMED will continue to build capacity of the Environmental Department, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe and the surrounding community and businesses. The OMED will develop an education program for above listed entities to address environmental issues and resulting health concerns within the Community. Areas addressed will address issues of Climate Change, Water and Energy Conservation, Clean Air Act and Indoor Air, Clean Water Act and Solid Waste, Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste, Toxic Substances Control and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. The "Green Team" will complete participate in meetings and classes to become more informed and involved citizens. This will improve the overall health and well being of the participants, their families and community. The "Green Team" will receive basic information along with tools and devices to enable local

businesses, homes to become “greener” and therefore improving the environment. This project will help to empower businesses, community members and youth by having input to the OMED as well as making needed changes to their environment. Tools and resources will also be provided to enable citizens to better understand environmental regulations and what they can do to report violations.

The 7 Clans Casino has expressed interest and agreed to work with the Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department on looking at ways to help the environment and make the casinos more environmentally friendly. The Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department has worked with Community youth through other EPA grants in the past and look forward to an expanded Education and Outreach opportunity with Frontier School through the “Green Team”. Otoe-Missouria Housing Authority has agreed to work with us to provide manpower and look changes in the Otoe-Missouria housing units. We also look forward to working with the Noble County Oklahoma State Extension Office, as well as Oklahoma State University. Both entities are a valuable source of technical advice and Education and Outreach materials.

Environmental and/or Public Health Information about the affected community

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe, a federally recognized tribe, is comprised of 3,029 enrolled tribal members, the majority of these live in and around Red Rock, Oklahoma. The Tribal Governmental and Administrative Offices are located in a rural isolated area called the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Headquarters, 14 miles south of Ponca City, 28 miles north of Stillwater and approximately 8 miles northeast of Red Rock, Oklahoma. A mile north of the Tribal Headquarters is the 7 Clans Paradise Casino, a mile south to the east is the 49 unit low rent Otoe-Missouria Tribal Housing Authority, adjacent is the Otoe-Missouria Water Treatment Facility and a half mile south on the west is the 7 Clans Paradise Travel Mart. The Otoe-Missouria Tribal Jurisdiction covers 2,479 acres of Tribal lands and 18,079 acres of individual allotted lands held in trust by the U.S. Government. Like all Oklahoma Tribes, Otoe-Missouria lands are situated in a checkerboard pattern, located in Noble, Pawnee, and Kay counties in north central Oklahoma.

According to the US Census Bureau, the town of Red Rock has a total area of 0.2 square miles. As of the census of 2010, there were 283 people, 82 households, and 68 families residing in the town. The demographics of the town at that time was 66.4% Native American. Out of the 82 households, 54.9% had children under the age of 18 living with them and 24.4% had someone living alone who were 65 years of age or older. The most recent figures from the US Census Bureau 2000 Census show the median income for a household in the town was \$17,031 and the median income for a family was \$23,750. The per capita income was \$7,185. About 30.4% of families and 34.7% of the population were below the poverty line, including 45.3% of those under the age of eighteen and 30.6% of those sixty-five or over. The town of Red Rock receives

their drinking water from the Red Rock Community Water System that is supplied by ground water well.

In the late 1970s Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company built a coal powered generating plant six miles east of Red Rock and 2 miles south of the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Headquarters. This generating plant is the only pollution source listed on the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory within the immediate area. The Air Quality issues associated with this plant have been an ongoing concern of the Community. When the OG&E plant was built it provided extra property tax money that the school district received, a new public school campus was established one mile east of Red Rock. This along with consolidation with the Marland School District enabled the community to develop one of the most modern schools in the state. Frontier School serves students Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade. Of the 325 students attending Frontier School, 53% are Native American students and 70% of students are eligible for Free or Reduced Lunches for low-income families. Frontier School receives their drinking water from a Non-Transient Non-Community Water System (ground water well).

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe provides housing services through the assistance of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) from the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Current tribal services include the low rent housing project, homeowner rehabilitation, rental/security deposit assistance, and homebuyer assistance program (HBA). The Otoe-Missouria Housing Authority (OMHA) has been given the responsibility for developing and maintaining the housing related activities in compliance with HUD rules and regulations. The Tribal Housing receives drinking water from the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Water Plant.

The major environmental concerns expressed to the Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department through various questionnaires and Otoe-Missouria Tribal Council are safe drinking water, solid waste issues and air pollution from the OG&E coal powered generating plant as well as indoor air quality. Due to lack of resources and knowledge the Tribal Community and Red Rock Communities are fearful for their health due to these concerns. This project will help educate the "Green Team" and give them resources to better address their concerns. The project will make the "Green Team" aware of other environmental issues that they should be aware of in the community and what can be done to improve the quality of their surroundings.

Organization's Historical Connection to the Affected Community

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe, a federally recognized tribe, is comprised of 3,029 enrolled tribal members, the majority of these live in and around Red Rock, Oklahoma. The Tribal Council, which functions as a sovereign government, has and continues to recognize the importance of protecting their environment. This concern and acknowledgment is reflected by their actions.

They have created a mission statement, *“to Protect the environment and conserve natural resources within all Otoe-Missouria Jurisdictional Lands”*.

The Tribe has conducted a Baseline Environmental Characterization, an Environmental Assessment, developed the Environmental Protection Commission and completed Environmental Codes on the issues of Solid Waste, Toxic and Hazardous Substance Control, Water Quality and the Environmental Protection Commission. In 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accepted an Otoe-Missouria Tribal Master Plan and an Otoe-Missouria Tribal Quality Management Plan. Each year thereafter, the Tribe submits revisions for each document for review and signed approval. The Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department is currently in its 15th year of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grants.

The long-term goals of the OMED are to maintain an environmental presence within the Otoe-Missouria Community, Red Rock Community and within Indian Country; reduce or eliminate adverse impacts on tribal natural resources and sustain communications with tribal communities to assure public health and knowledge of environmental issues. The OMED staff continually strives to expand and improve their environmental protection capabilities, knowledge, attitude, skills and understanding to better serve the local community. The OMED has continued to increase the Tribal Environmental Health by increasing awareness on Environmental issues and environmentally sound lifestyle choices. The OMED has developed the Otoe-Missouria Environmental Commission (OMEC) to increase Community involvement within the OMED. The OMEC increases the community’s capacity to give input and feedback into planning, Environmental Codes, enforcement and address environmental and public health concerns. The OMED has currently been involved with the Community through student presentations starting with the Otoe-Missouria Head Start Program, Frontier School students and the general public. Past events have included, the Otoe-Missouria Health Fair, Red Rock/Otoe-Missouria Spring Break Event, Otoe-Missouria Summer Youth Program, Otoe-Missouria Annual Encampment, OMED Swap Meet among other Community events.

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe is a member of the Cherokee Nation’s Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC) Consortia consisting of 42 tribes within Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and New Mexico. The OMED is also involved in other local and regional organizations with similar goals and interests such as the Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma (TECO), Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC), Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition (ITEMC), Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) as well as other organizations that can provide the OMED with environmental assistance and information.

Project Description

The purpose of the Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department’s “Green Team” Environmental Project is to increase the understanding of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, local community, business, youth and adults about local environmental issues and the resulting public health

issues. The “Green Team” was formed as a part of the Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Justice Small Grant Program. Members are comprised of Otoe-Missouria Tribal Community members, Red Rock, Oklahoma residents and residents from the surrounding area. The 7 Clans Casino has expressed an interest in joining in our efforts to work towards a more Environmentally Friendly Community. They wish to make positive changes within their business and property in order to make a difference in the community. Community members have expressed concern in the past on several environmental issues and the possible health effects to residents, especially the children and elders. These issues include the proximity of the Oklahoma Gas and Electric coal powered generating plant and the effect on air quality and issues concerning water quality. The Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department (OMED) want to continue building and expanding the Otoe-Missouria “Green Team”. The “Green Team” is a group of interested Frontier school students, Otoe-Missouria Tribal members, Red Rock Community members, Otoe-Missouria Employees and Management. The “Green Team” develops and promotes a better understanding of these issues as well as other environmental issues that could be affecting the health of the Community. By empowering these individuals to make a change we anticipate that the interest and understanding will continue to increase as the “Green Team” spreads the word to their neighbors and families. This project will supply the “Green Team” with the knowledge, tools and resources to make better informed decisions, and have more access to regulatory and enforcement agencies, such as contact information for the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. The “Green Team” will be empowered to be Community Environmental Leaders.

The OMED will partner with Frontier School, to bring interested students into the “Green Team”. The OMED has a history of working with tribal youth and community on various Environmental Outreach programs and look forward to expanding the already existing program. Outreach and Education is currently a part of the OMED’s Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Justice Small Grants, Clean Water Act (CWA) 106 and General Assistance Program (GAP) funding workplans. The 7 Clans Casino has expressed interest in working with the OMED in an effort to make the Tribal businesses more “green”. We will also extend the partnership opportunity to the Tribal Community, employees and Red Rock residents.

The Environmental Justice Coordinator (EJC) will develop brochures introducing potential participants to the “Green Team” and the upcoming educational projects. This information will be distributed Community wide to Frontier School, the Otoe-Missouria After School Program, Otoe-Missouria employees, 7 Clans Casino management and employees, Otoe-Missouria Tribal Housing Community and Red Rock Community. The OMED is currently working with Frontier School students through the school and After-School Program on Environmental Education and Outreach. This has been an ongoing relationship that we intend to continue. We are very pleased to partner with Frontier on this project as well. Other partners in the “Green Team

Environmental Project” are the Otoe-Missouria Housing Authority who will provide us with technical information and assistance in developing more environmentally friendly practices within the Tribal Community. The 7 Clans Casino will work with us in order to make changes in the business that will positively impact the local community. The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service of Oklahoma State University as well as Oklahoma State University is an excellent resource for our project. Their office provides programs that include Natural resources and environmental management, food, nutrition, health and safety education and youth, family and community development. We feel they will be a strong partner in this project. The OMED has worked with all of these entities in the past for various technical and educational assistance.

A beginning questionnaire will be developed for use in determining the concerns and prior knowledge about Clean Air, Clean Water, Solid Waste, Climate Change, Energy Conservation, Household Hazardous Waste, Toxic Substances and Insecticides among the participants. This will gather information about community interests and possible concerns of existing health conditions that could be attributed to environmental factors such as air quality and respiratory health. The first quarter of the funding period will be devoted to this planning and development phase.

The OMED will hold an initial meeting with participants to distribute surveys to better target interests and concerns of the Community. This information will be used by the Project Coordinator to research the following topics along with any specific concerns raised. The OMED will then develop training that will encompass the following concerns:

- 1) Climate Change, Water and Energy Conservation – This section will educate participants on climate change and what effects we are seeing locally. The section will also look at ways of reducing the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. Participants will be encouraged to brainstorm ways to cut our carbon footprint and conserve water and energy resources. They will be given the tools and knowledge to perform basic home energy evaluations and home weatherization tasks. Energy saving devices for the home and office will be discussed and distributed to participants. This section aims to reduce energy costs and greenhouse emissions while empowering participants to save money while at the same time protecting the environment in which they live. There are many practices that can lead to conservation and savings such as water saving faucet aerators, low flow shower heads and toilets, Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs and detecting air or water leaks. The Otoe-Missouria Housing Authority will assist and participate as a partner in this section of the project. They will be available for information and possible labor in fixing existing problems or installing conservation devices. The 7 Clans Casino is also very interested in incorporating energy

saving practices in the Casinos and Hotel. The OMED looks forward to providing education and technical support for energy saving projects as well as a partner in other environmental areas such as solid waste and water quality.

- 2) Clean Air Act and Indoor Air – The OMED recognizes that within the Tribal Community there is a high incidence of Asthma and other respiratory illnesses. This project will look at the various air quality issues that could be affecting the Community and provide information on air quality and what can be done to improve the quality of indoor air and lessen the negative health effects.
- 3) Clean Water Act – The Otoe-Missouria Water Quality Technician (WQT) currently monitors local surface waterways, the Red Rock Creek and Black Bear Creek. The Otoe-Missouria Water Pollution Control Program will be explained, along with results of past water monitoring data. The beneficial uses for these waterways will be explained, including health risks for recreational use such as swimming. We will look at the effects of runoff on water quality and look at demonstration projects, such as rain gardens to address the problems of erosion and runoff.
- 4) Solid Waste, Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste – The OMED has had a small recycling project in place for several years. We hope to educate the participants about this program and various solid waste issues within the Tribal jurisdiction. This module would also include information on Household Hazardous Waste, how to reduce the toxic chemicals used in the home and how to properly dispose of the chemicals already in use in the home. The “Green Team” will be offered a variety of alternatives to popularly used chemicals. By educating the “Green Team” we hope to reduce household solid waste through re-use, recycling and composting. We will be partnering with the Noble County OSU Cooperative Extension Service for this presentation and possibly receiving technical assistance on some of the other presentations as well.
- 5) Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide – These products are used throughout the Tribal Community in varying levels. The OMED feels education on use and application are needed to ensure the health of families and applicators. The EJC will use questionnaires and interviews to ascertain what products are being used, if there are suitable choices and if residents and employees are informed on safe application procedures.

At the conclusion of the two year project period, an end of the project questionnaire will be conducted. This survey along with meeting sign-in sheets will quantify the number of participants that have attended the meetings. The questionnaires will also assess the success of the project in terms of knowledge gained and if the project met the participant’s expectations and goals. The OMED feels that through the “Green Team”, homes, businesses and the local community will become a cleaner, healthier environment due to increased knowledge and public awareness.

Organization's Capacity and Programmatic Capability

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe has effectively administered numerous federal, state, and tribal programs for over twenty years. Currently, the Tribe is administering 38 federal, state, and tribal programs with an annual operating budget of \$3,542,124.00.

The Tribe has in place and uses fully functional management systems to properly administer these programs. The management systems consist of Personnel Policies and Procedures, Financial Management, Property Management, Procurement Management, and Travel Policies Management. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service provide administrative audits each year to insure the Tribe is in compliance with these management systems. In addition, the Tribe is subjected to a single purpose audit each year to insure accountability of funds. The current grants are on schedule and progress towards completion of the outputs and outcomes is reported to Region 6 Environmental Protection Agency on a quarterly basis in a Quarterly Progress Report to the assigned EPA Project Officer. Each grant is subject to an Annual Project Evaluation. Prior year cooperative agreements have been successfully completed and grant deliverables were completed and reported to Region 6 EPA through quarterly and annual final reports.

EPA grants in progress and completed in the last 5 years:

FY14 EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) Grant Number GA-00F-19301-3

FY13 EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) Grant Number GA-00F-19301-2,

FY 12 EPA General Assistance Program Grant Number GA-00F-19301-1

FY11 EPA General Assistance Program Grant Number GA-00F-19301-0

FY10 EPA General Assistance Program Grant Number GA-96627801-3

GAP Project Officer, Fincher Harris, Harris.Fincher@epa.gov, 214-665-2260 Region 6 EPA, Dallas TX 75202

FY13 EPA Clean Water Act 106, Grant Number I-00F-68901-0

FY12 EPA Clean Water Act 106, Grant Number I-00F-36001-1

FY11 EPA Clean Water Act 106 Grant number I-00F-36001-0

FY10 EPA Clean Water Act 106, Grant Number I-00F-02301-1

FY09 EPA Clean Water Act 106, Grant Number I-00F-02301-0

EPA Water Division/Tribal Programs Project Officer, Samuel Reynolds,
Reynolds.Samuel@epamail.epa.gov, 214-665-6682 Region 6 EPA, Dallas TX 75202

FY13 EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant, Grant Number I-00F-66701-0

EPA Project Officer, Israel Anderson

Anderson.Israel@epamail.epa.gov, 214-665-3138

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe will continue to successfully complete the obligations of all grants/cooperative agreements. Outputs, Outcomes and Deliverables will be reported through Quarterly Reports and a Final Report after the close of the funding period.

Qualifications of the Project Manager

Angela Heim is the current Environmental Coordinator and will serve as the Project Manager. Ms. Heim is an Otoe-Missouria Tribal member and has worked with the Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department for thirteen years. During this time the OMED has worked on various EPA funded projects under the Clean Air Act, Wetlands, Clean Water Act and General Assistance Program as well as projects funded under Public Water Supply System (PWSS) and Administration for Native Americans (ANA). The currently funded Water Pollution Control Program (Clean Water Act Section 106), Environmental Justice Small Grant and General Assistance Program (GAP) each have an education and outreach component in their workplans as have past funded projects.

Crystal Romero Chicas will be the Environmental Justice Coordinator. Ms. Romero Chicas has been employed with the Otoe-Missouria Environmental Department for less than 1 year. She is currently working with the Environmental Justice Small Grants, "The Green Team Environmental Development Project". She has also worked with the General Assistance Program in the recycling program.

Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes

- FY13 EPA General Assistance Program Grant Number GA-00F-19301-2, General Assistance Program, \$125,000, GAP Project Officer, Fincher Harris, Harris.Fincher@epa.gov, 214-665-2260 Region 6 EPA.
- FY12 EPA Clean Water Act 106, Grant Number I-00F-36001-1 Water Pollution Control Program \$120,000, EPA Project Officer, Samuel Reynolds, Reynolds.Samuel@epamail.epa.gov, 214-665-6682 Region 6 EPA.
- FY 12 EPA General Assistance Program Grant Number GA-00F-19301-1, General Assistance Program, \$115,000, GAP Project Officer, Fincher Harris, Harris.Fincher@epa.gov, 214-665-2260 Region 6 EPA.
- FY11 EPA Clean Water Act 106 Grant number 00F36001-0 Water Pollution Control Program \$120,000, EPA Project Officer, Samuel Reynolds, Reynolds.Samuel@epamail.epa.gov, 214-665-6682 Region 6 EPA.

- FY11 EPA General Assistance Program Grant Number GA-00F-19301-1, General Assistance Program, \$100,000, GAP Project Officer, Fincher Harris, Harris.Fincher@epa.gov, 214-665-2260 Region 6 EPA.
- FY13 EPA Environmental Justice Small Grant, Grant Number I-00F-66701-0, \$30,000, EPA Project Officer, Israel Anderson, Anderson.Israel@epamail.epa.gov, 214-665-3138, EPA Region 6.

The current grants are on schedule and progress towards completion of the outputs and outcomes are reported to Region 6 Environmental Protection Agency on a quarterly basis in a Quarterly Report to the assigned Project Officer. Each grant is subject to an Annual Project Evaluation. Prior year cooperative agreements have been successfully completed and grant deliverables were completed and reported to Region 6 EPA through quarterly and annual final reports.

Expenditure of Awarded Grant Funds

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe has effectively administered numerous federal, state, and tribal programs for over twenty years. Currently, the Tribe is administering 38 federal, state, and tribal programs with an annual operating budget of \$3,542,124.00.

The Tribe has in place and uses fully functional management systems to properly administer these programs. The management systems consist of Personnel Policies and Procedures, Financial Management, Property Management, Procurement Management, and Travel Policies Management. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Indian Health Service provide administrative audits each year to insure the Tribe is in compliance with these management systems. In addition, the Tribe is subjected to a single purpose audit each year to insure accountability of funds. The current grants are on schedule and progress towards completion of the outputs and outcomes is reported to Region 6 Environmental Protection Agency on a quarterly basis in a Quarterly Progress Report to the assigned EPA Project Officer. Each grant is subject to an Annual Project Evaluation. Prior year cooperative agreements have been successfully completed and grant deliverables were completed and reported to Region 6 EPA through quarterly and annual final reports.

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Information

This project will not include data collection that will require a Quality Assurance Project Plan.